

Life & Leisure

The Chilliwack
Progress

Modern-day cupid makes love matches

Personal introduction service focuses on finding love for the singles of Chilliwack

Katie Robinson
The Progress

Ahh, love.

Back in the old days, love could be found practically everywhere: at Friday night socials, cuddling at the drive-in, even through a straw at the nearest malt shop. But nowadays, it seems, cupid isn't so forthcoming with his arrows.

Singles are too busy; have a limited social network; are unwilling to compromise their desires; are out of the dating habit; or are shy and reserved. And many are now turning to a matchmaker, but not just any old matchmaker – not their sister or friend or co-worker – they're turning to a professional matchmaker.

In Chilliwack, that would be Lynn Phizacklea.

For the past year, through TopMatch International, a personal introduction service, Phizacklea has successfully matched potential loves throughout the Chilliwack area.

"We do the searching for people," said Phizacklea, a little fatigued after conducting three private consultations the previous evening.

"A lot of professionals are too busy to do the searching themselves, and it's become more difficult because society now doesn't have the social circles it once did.

"People don't know where to go to meet other people."

TopMatch can solve that problem, said Phizacklea.

Through the service, clients undergo an initial get-to-know-you consultation with Phizacklea where she extracts what you're looking for, what your expectations are, what personality traits you're attracted to, and so on. Following the consultation, she puts a profile together and through the members-only database, she finds potential matches that suit your criteria. She then handpicks who she believes would be your most suitable match.

"We don't waste time," she said.

But what separates Phizacklea from all the other self-described matchmakers of the world?

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Life

Old-school matchmaking makes a comeback

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"Successful matchmaking is both a science and an art," she said. "If managed properly, the chances of success can be dramatically

increased."

Following several years of research, test marketing and piloting, TopMatch was started two years ago in the UK by Nora and Russell Leach.

The Leach's themselves met through a personal introduction service, and through that experience, their eyes were quickly opened to the inadequacies and pitfalls of the dating services available at that time. They wanted to change that.

In two years TopMatch has reached six countries, and Phizacklea believes it's just going to keep on expanding.

"Matchmaking is coming back," she said. "With over six million single adults in Canada, the demand for a professional introduction service has never been more needed."

A match could be instant, or it could take a few tries, depending on the person. But regardless, "it is so much fun to be able to get people back into the scene," said Phizacklea, recalling a couple in their 60s who were so excited after their first date, which consisted of dancing all the way to midnight. "It's lovely to be able to bring this into their lives."

Spoken like a natural-born cupid.

For more information on TopMatch, visit the website www.topmatch-canada.com or contact Lynn Phizacklea at 604-824-5883.